

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Withdrawn) A preventive or therapeutic agent for inflammatory bowel disease comprising an interleukin-6 (IL-6) antagonist as an active ingredient.
2. (Withdrawn) The preventive or therapeutic agent according to claim 1 wherein the IL-6 antagonist is an antibody against IL-6 receptor.
3. (Withdrawn) The preventive or therapeutic agent according to claim 2 wherein the antibody against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody against IL-6 receptor.
4. (Withdrawn) The preventive or therapeutic agent according to claim 3 wherein the antibody against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody against human IL-6 receptor.
5. (Withdrawn) The preventive or therapeutic agent according to claim 3 wherein the antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody against mouse IL-6 receptor.
6. (Withdrawn) The preventive or therapeutic agent according to claim 2 wherein the antibody against IL-6 receptor is a recombinant antibody.
7. (Withdrawn) The preventive or therapeutic agent according to claim 4 wherein the monoclonal antibody against human IL-6 receptor is PM-1 antibody.
8. (Withdrawn) The preventive or therapeutic agent according to claim 5 wherein the monoclonal antibody against mouse IL-6 receptor is MR16-1 antibody.

9. (Withdrawn) The preventive or therapeutic agent according to claim 2 wherein the antibody against IL-6 receptor is a chimeric or humanized antibody against IL-6 receptor.

10. (Withdrawn) The preventive or therapeutic agent according to claim 9 wherein the humanized antibody against IL-6 receptor is a humanized PM-1 antibody.

11. (Withdrawn) The preventive or therapeutic agent according to claim 1 wherein the inflammatory bowel disease is Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.

12. (Withdrawn) An agent for suppressing weight loss in inflammatory bowel disease said agent comprising an IL-6 antagonist as an active ingredient.

13. (Withdrawn) An agent for suppressing weight loss in inflammatory bowel disease said agent comprising an antibody against IL-6 receptor as an active ingredient.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Withdrawn) A method of suppressing weight loss in inflammatory bowel disease which method comprises administering an IL-6 antagonist to the subject.

26. (Withdrawn) A method of suppressing weight loss in inflammatory bowel disease which method comprises administering an antibody against IL-6 receptor to the subject.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (Canceled)

33. (Canceled)

34. (Canceled)

35. (Canceled)

36. (Canceled)

37. (Canceled)

38. (Withdrawn) The use of an IL-6 antagonist for the production of an agent for suppressing weight loss in inflammatory bowel disease.

39. (Withdrawn) The use of antibody directed against IL-6 receptor for the production of an agent for suppressing weight loss in inflammatory bowel disease.

40. (Canceled)

41. (Canceled)

42. (Canceled)

43. (New) A method of treating inflammatory bowel diseases, said method comprising administering an anti-interleukin-6 receptor antibody.

44. (New) The method according to claim 43, wherein the anti-interleukin-6 receptor antibody binds to human interleukin-6 receptor.

45. (New) The method according to claim 43, wherein the anti-interleukin-6 receptor antibody is a chimeric antibody.

46. (New) The antibody according to claim 43, wherein the anti-interleukin-6 receptor antibody is a humanized antibody.

47. (New) A method according to any one of claim 43 to 46, wherein the inflammatory bowel disease is Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.